

British Coleoptera delineated, consisting of Figures of all the Genera of British Beetles drawn in outline. By W. Spry, M.E.S., edited by W. E. Shuckard, Lib. R.S. Nos. 1—6. To be continued Monthly, each Number containing Six Plates and Illustrating nearly fifty Genera.

This work, of which six numbers have regularly appeared, is adapted to serve as an illustration to the different works on the subject published without plates. The figures of the insects are faithfully and correctly drawn, considering at the same time the low price at which they are published, scarcely three farthings a genus. They are not indeed to be compared to the artistical plates of Curtis; but they are accurate enough to serve the purposes for which they are intended, and are executed in a style of lithography which we have not before seen employed in this country though much used on the continent for natural history publications, and are well adapted for the purpose of illustration.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

December 3.—Edward Forster, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

The Rev. W. S. Hore exhibited a specimen of a remarkable variety of Duck, supposed to be hybrid between the *Anas Boschas* and *Anas acuta* of Linnæus.

Read, “Descriptions of three Vegetable Monstrosities lately found at York.” By the Rev. W. Hincks, M.A., F.L.S.

Two of these monstrosities occur in species of *Iris*, and much resemble each other. The species are *I. versicolor* and *I. sambucina*. They have 5 parts in each circle, except that the inner circle of petals consists of 4 in one instance and only 3 in the other. It is sufficiently manifest that they are produced by the union of two flowers to form each, and they lead to the conclusion that when *Irises* with 4 parts in each circle occur (which are not very uncommon) they are unions of two flowers, one-third part of each having perished in the junction. Various other monstrosities consisting in the union of two flowers were compared with the subjects of the description, particularly some of *Cœnothera*, flowers having 7 petals, 14 stamens, and 7 stigmas, where the parts preserved in the union are in exactly the same proportion as in the *Irises*.

The third specimen described as a monstrous union of 4 flowers

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